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Story by Wm. J. Craft.

In a sheltered cove of the rocky shore, the little village of Beauport enjoys the fishing monopoly of all the surrounding waters. But this monopoly is controlled by one man, Dr. Ezra Stafford, who has neglected his medical practice to deal in mortgages on houses and boats. Stafford finds joy only in his daughter Mary. She in turn is loved by John Powell, the doctor's foreman.

John returns from a trip to find Spike Jones, recently discharged by the Doctor as a trouble maker, attempting to stir up an insurrection on the docks. John orders Spike to leave. He refuses and there is a fight. After a bitter struggle, John knocks Spike into the water. Spike sinks. John leaps overboard and saves his life, but Spike nurses a bitter grudge.

Philip Morton has come to Beauport, posing as a wealthy investor. He is secretly representing a fishing syndicate which has long sought to locate in Beauport, but has been unable to do so because of the Doctor's monopoly. Morton is authorized to pay a huge sum of money for a site. He is scheming not only to trick the doctor, but also to enrich himself at his firm's expense. On the other hand, Stafford is figuring on using Morton's money, and he also sees a chance to make a wealthy match for his daughter. Morton makes little progress with Mary, for she neither likes nor trusts him. By sly insinuations, Morton finally arouses the doctor by making him believe that John and Mary are planning to marry. Stafford thereupon forbids Mary to see John, on pain of the latter's discharge. Mary sends John a note through Pat, the old jail keeper. Morton sees this and berates Pat for being a go-between. Pat spills Morton by pulling out a net on which he is standing. Morton then knocks Pat down. John interferes. Morton hits him also. There is a vicious fight in which Morton is all but knocked out. Stafford, enraged by this treatment of his guest, discharges John on the spot.

Unable to obtain any employment because of the doctor's hostility, John decides to go away, taking with him his invalid mother, the dearest thing in the world to him. But the increasing worries bring on a crucial moment in the long illness of the invalid. John is called. He finds his mother desperately ill. He dashes for the doctor. The latter is just starting out with Morton to look at some property. He tells John that he will call when he finishes his business. John is desperate when the doctor ignores his plea. Thinking only of his mother, he grabs the Doctor by the collar and drags him the length of the street to the house where the invalid lies. Then he tells the doctor if he does not go in there and save her, he will kill him. The doctor goes in. After moments of awful suspense, the Doctor tells John that his mother will live.

Morton receives a letter from his firm telling him that he must either close a deal at once or leave Beauport. With visions of wealth, not to mention Mary, in mind, Morton is not ready to go. Knowing that Spike is hostile to John and the Doctor, Morton seeks his aid in a cave half way up a rocky cliff over the ocean, where Spike has installed a radio set and gathered about him a desperate gang. Spike promises his aid. On the beach below, John and Pat are parting. John looks up in time to see Spike and Morton climb down a rope ladder from the



lofty cliff. He knows that their meeting holds no good for Dr. Stafford, and in spite of Pat's protests that he wouldn't believe, John hurries to tell the Doctor. He finds Morton in the office and then accuses him of trickery. The doctor refuses to listen to John and orders him out. John goes; but his words have not failed of an effect, for the doctor alarms Morton by telling him that they had better let matters rest for a few days.

The next day, while John is packing to leave his mother, with Beauport is roused as never before by the news that Dr. Stafford has disappeared. Cleverly led on by Spike Jones, the crowd is quick to suspect John Powell, especially when the storekeeper says that John paid his bill and said he was going away. Morton is found, bound in a chair in the doctor's office. The constable finds it his painful duty to arrest John, and Pat finds it even harder to lock up in his jail the son of his old friend. But people are against John - they remember that he threatened the doctor's life, and they eagerly seek a victim. Even Mary seems to believe John guilty.

In his cell John does some stern thinking. Then he remembers the incident of Morton and Spike and the cave. He calls Pat and reminds him of it. Then he asks Pat to let him go to prove his innocence. Pat is strongly moved but his duty seems foremost.

In his cave Spike is telling the cringing doctor to sign an option on a fishing site, as he promised Morton he would. The doctor is frantic with fear, both for himself and for his cherished business. At the jail, Pat finally promises to let John go for two hours. John promises on his honor to be back by that time. He scales the cliff above the cave and lets himself down by a rope. But he is seen by one of Spike's vigilant gang. As he enters the cave John is overpowered by Spike and his men and thrown into a senseless heap on the floor. Spike and his men flee in a boat, taking the doctor with them. Mary goes to the jail to see if John will tell her where her father is. Morton accompanies her. They discover that John is gone. The enraged crowd storms the jail to get at Pat for releasing the prisoner. With time passing relentlessly John recovers to find himself alone. Stumbling about the cave he comes upon the hidden radio set. Years of experiment have qualified John as a radio expert. He sends out a frantic SOS. It is picked up by a navy sub-chaser and a hydroplane. They hurry toward the cliff as directed by John. The flying boat gets there first. The ladder has been removed, so John is forced to make a breathless dive to the water below and swim to the boat. He gives the pilot the direction and they pursue Spike's boat. Overtaking it, the pilot circles about, then skims across the water, nearer and nearer the fleeing boat. John stands at the tip of one wing. The two boats seem about to crash. John leaps into the other. Spike and his men leap upon him. A desperate battle is waged with the boat running wild. The sub-chaser dashes upon the scene. It comes alongside. Brawny sailors leap into Spike's boat. Spike and his men are taken prisoner. John has accomplished his rescue of the doctor.

With Morton and Spike safely behind the bars in his place, John comes into his own. Because of what he has been through, the doctor suffers a change of heart. He tells the

people of Beauport that hereafter he will live for them and their good. He takes John's mother away, to receive the care she should have, and he announces happily that when he returns it will be to tell them of his new partner ---- and son-in-law.

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